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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, February 4, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended January 16 totaled 18.2 billion ton-miles, up 3.4 percent from the 17.6 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987.

Cumulative volume for the first two weeks of 1988 was an estimated 35.3 billion ton-miles carried, up 3.4 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended January 16 totaled 407,644, up 3.2 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 8.5 percent higher than the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 1.8 percent in the East and 4.9 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 12 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Grain increased by 7,076 cars (26.8 percent), metals and products showed a gain of 2,528 cars (31.4 percent), and nonmetallic minerals increased by 1,975 cars (23.7 percent). Coke loadings were up by 1,768 cars (44.2 percent). Sixteen of the 20 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback freight traffic during the week ended January 9 totaled 90,073 trailers and/or containers, up 0.1 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 1/16/88:

	Loadings in Week ended January 16, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	33,525	I	7,076	26.8	I	5,090	17.9
Other farm products	5,008	D	457	8.4	I	293	6.2
Metallic ores	13,066	I	1,701	15.0	I	130	1.0
Coal	116,378	I	544	0.5	I	8,604	8.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	10,060	D	2,410	19.3	I	1,283	14.6
Nonmetallic minerals	10,311	I	1,975	23.7	D	1,333	11.4
Grain mill products	11,497	I	310	2.8	I	78	0.7
Food and kindred products	11,642	I	300	2.6	I	900	8.4
Primary forest products	10,289	D	722	6.6	D	766	8.0
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,097	D	842	10.6	I	202	2.9
Pulp, paper and allied products	11,949	D	1,081	8.3	D	1,075	8.3
Chemicals and allied products	27,506	I	789	3.0	I	101	0.4
Petroleum products	5,265	I	591	12.6	I	195	3.8
Stone, clay and glass products	8,580	D	586	6.4	I	519	6.4
Coke	5,766	I	1,768	44.2	D	187	3.1
Metals and products	10,591	I	2,528	31.4	I	430	4.2
Motor vehicles and equipment	19,428	D	1,746	8.2	I	4,055	26.4
Waste and scrap materials	9,064	I	451	5.2	I	1,476	19.5
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,489	D	299	10.7	I	648	35.2
All other carloads	78,133	I	2,841	3.8	I	9,823	14.4
Total Cars Loaded	407,644	I	12,731	3.2	I	31,998	8.5
Corresponding week of 1987	394,913						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (2 weeks)	783,290	761,633	I 2.8
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
Week ended January 9	17.1	16.5	I 3.4
Week ended January 16	18.2	17.6	I 3.4
2 Weeks cumulative	35.3	34.1	I 3.4

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